



The

FLASH

REBIRTH

2

JUL 00



JOHNS
VAN SCIVER

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THE CONGO BASIN,
AFRICA

GORILLA CITY.



THE BALKAN MOUNTAINS

...WHO SEEK
BAPTISM BY THE
FIFTH FORCE...
BEYOND STRONG
AND WEAK...

...ELECTRO-
MAGNETIC AND
GRAVITY...

...ALL OF US
WE SACRIFICE
BLOOD FOR
SPEED.

YOUR
ACOLYTES ASK
FOR YOUR RETURN,
HIGH PRIEST.

TRUE MASTER
OF THE SPEED
FORCE.

THOSE WHO WISH
TO RIDE THE
LIGHTNING...

AND MY
MASTER...

...SAVITAR.

I BEG
FOR YOUR
BLESSING ON
US ONCE
AGAIN.

YOU ALWAYS
LIKED WHEN I
BEGGED, DO YOU
REMEMBER?



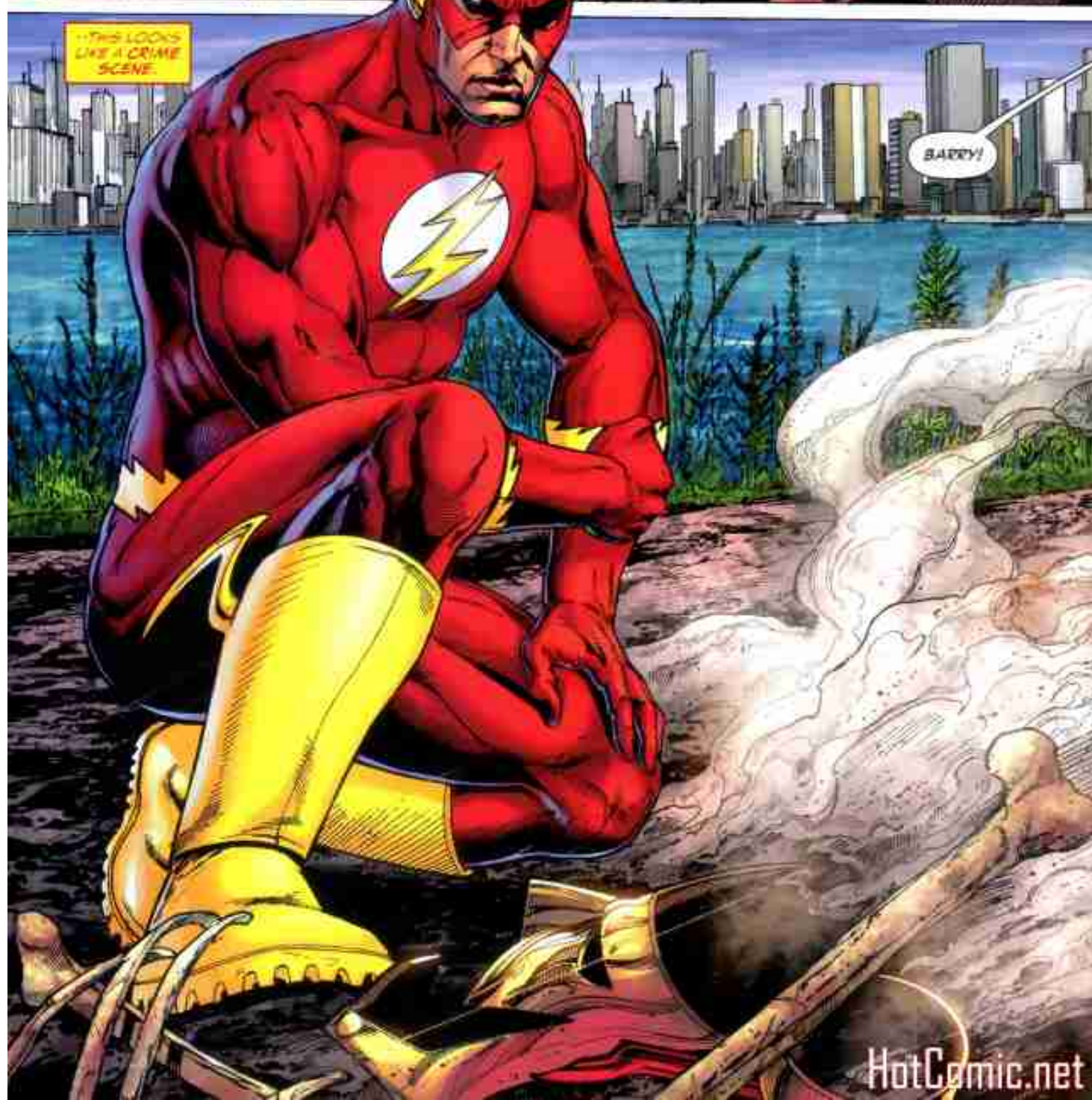
YES.

PRAISE THE
LIGHTNING! SAVITAR,
COME FORTH FROM
THE SPEED FORCE!
RETURN TO US—





MY FIRST
THOUGHT...



...THIS LOOKS
LIKE A CRIME
SCENE.

BARRY!



I DIDN'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY CATCH UP. YOU STOPPED RUNNING--

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE, HAL.

WHAT HAPPENED--?



HIS METAL MASK WASN'T AFFECTED. ONLY HIS FLESH.

MEANING HE DISINTEGRATED FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

WHO DID?

SAVITAR.

HE WORSHIPPED THE SPEED FORCE. CREATED HIS OWN SPEED CULT.



AS SOON AS I REACHED HIGH VELOCITY. I THINK HE USED ME AS A DOORWAY TO ESCAPE FROM HIS PRISON.

HIS PRISON BEING THE ONE YOU WERE TRAPPED IN-- THE SPEED FORCE, RIGHT?

YES.

SO SAVITAR WAS TRYING TO FOLLOW YOUR FOOTSTEPS OUT--

AND IT COST HIM HIS LIFE. I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I TOUCHED HIM, BUT...



I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET WALLY AND THE OTHERS AT HOME FOR DINNER.

YOU SHOULD DO THAT. SPEND SOME TIME WITH--

THIS IS WALLY'S PERP. HE'LL KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS BETTER THAN I WOULD.

YOU REMEMBER THE DRILL. CONTAIN THE SCENE.

BARR--



--Y.



KAL'S NOT
HAPPY.

HE'S NOT USED
TO ME KEEPING
MY DISTANCE.

I'M SURE KAL THINKS HE
CAN SOMEHOW HELP ME
"SETTLE BACK IN." HE
THINKS HE CAN RELATE
MY RETURN TO HIS.

BUT THE TRUTH IS, BEFORE HE
CAME BACK, THE GREEN LANTERN
CORPS NO LONGER EXISTED. HE'D
BEEN CORRUPTED BY PARALLAN
AND EVERYONE REMEMBERED
HIM AS A MURDERER.

BEFORE I
CAME BACK—

—EVERYTHING
WAS FINE.

NOW, SOMETHING'S
CHANGED. SOMETHING'S
DIFFERENT.

I FEEL MORE DRIVEN,
MORE ANXIOUS. LIKE I AM
NECK DEEP IN A CASE.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH—?

"HEY."



"THAT'S YOUR HOUSE."



BARRY!

BARRY, WAIT UP--!

THERE'S A COP CAR IN FRONT OF IRIS'S HOUSE

MY MUSCLES LOOK UP AS THEY FEED OFF THE SPEED FORCE--

BEFORE I TAKE ANOTHER STEP, MY BRAIN GOES INTO OVERDRIVE--

AND MY LIFE FLASHES BEFORE MY EYES



ALLEN!



YOU'RE LATE!

LIEUTENANT PRYOR SIR--?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

Image Comics





IRIS WEST.

CRIME REPORTER FOR THE CENTRAL CITY CITIZEN.

Um... Hi.

QUITE A SHOW IN THERE. THEY DELIBERATED FOR LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES.

ACTUALLY, I THINK THAT'S ABOUT THE AVERAGE TIME CENTRAL CITY'S JURIES RUSH THROUGH THEIR CIVIC DUTY.

SURE, BUT NORMALLY THEY COME BACK "NOT GUILTY." THE DEFENSE LAWYERS IN THIS TOWN ARE AS SLICK AS ICE.

HOW ABOUT AN INTERVIEW?

I SAID EVERYTHING IN THE COURTROOM, MISS WEST.

SAM SCUDDER'S CASE IS CLOSED.

NOT ABOUT SAM SCUDDER. ABOUT YOU.

ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.







IT WAS ALWAYS—



—LATE.
CAPTAIN FRYE

...THEY COULD USE A CRIME REPORTER LIKE YOU AGAIN. THE ONES THE CENTRAL CITY CITIZEN HAVE HOUNDING THE STATION NOW ARE ALL SHOCK, NO SUBSTANCE.

THEY WRITE GRISLY RECAPS OF MURDER WITHOUT THE HUMAN STORIES BEHIND THEM.

YOU NEVER GOT SENSATIONAL WITH IT, IRIS. YOU ALWAYS MADE IT ABOUT THE PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND.



THE PEOPLE LEFT BEHIND AND BRINGING THE GUILTY TO JUSTICE ARE THE ONLY THINGS THAT MATTER IN A HOMICIDE.



EVERYONE IN THE WORLD THINKS BARRY ALLEN IS DEAD.

WHY DOESN'T FRYE

I APPRECIATE YOUR BEING DISCREET ABOUT BARRY'S RETURN, CAPTAIN FRYE.

YOUR HUSBAND WAS ONE OF THE FINEST POLICE OFFICERS I'VE EVER KNOWN, IRIS. WHEN I RECEIVED THE CALL FROM THE F.B.I., I WAS THRILLED TO KNOW HE WAS ALIVE.



IT'S NOT OFTEN SOMEONE IN WITNESS PROTECTION GETS THEIR LIFE BACK.

WITNESS PROTECTION



WHERE HAS ALLEN BEEN HIDING ALL THESE YEARS ANYWAY?

SOMEWHERE WARM.



ALLEN.
I ALMOST
DIDN'T BELIEVE
IT.

YOU
HAVEN'T AGED
A DAY.

WELCOMING
YOU BACK WITH THE
BOTTLE OF SCOTCH
I'VE BEEN SAVING IS
GOING TO HAVE
TO WAIT.

I'VE GOT
A HOMICIDE
CASE ON MY
HANDS.

DON'T YOU
HAVE C.S.I.
FOR THAT?

THEY WERE
THE ONES THAT WERE
MURDERED, ALLEN. IN
THEIR LAB. LAST NIGHT,
ALONG WITH TWO
OTHER OFFICERS.

WHAT
ABOUT THE DAY
TEAM?

YOU'RE THE BEST
FORENSICS SCIENTIST CENTRAL
CITY EVER HAD. METICULOUS
HONEST. IT'S A LOT HARDER
TO FIND THAT IN THIS TOWN
THAN IT USED TO BE.



I APPRECIATE THAT, BUT I'M
NOT EXACTLY UP TO SPEED WITH
TODAY'S FORENSICS.

ALLEN--

CAN YOU
EXCUSE US FOR
A MINUTE,
CAPTAIN?

WITNESS
PROTECTION.
IRIS?

WONDER WOMAN
USED HER GOVERNMENT
CONNECTIONS TO
ACCOUNT FOR YOUR
ABSENCE OVER THE
LAST SEVERAL
YEARS.

WHY
WOULD SHE
DO THAT?

THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE
ASSUMED YOU'D
WANT TO PICK UP
WHERE YOU LEFT
OFF.

WHERE
I LEFT
OFF?



I'VE BEEN "DEAD" FOR
YEARS. THE WORLD
HAS MOVED ON.

YOU DID,
TOO.

AND I'M
GLAD YOU
WERE ABLE
TO.

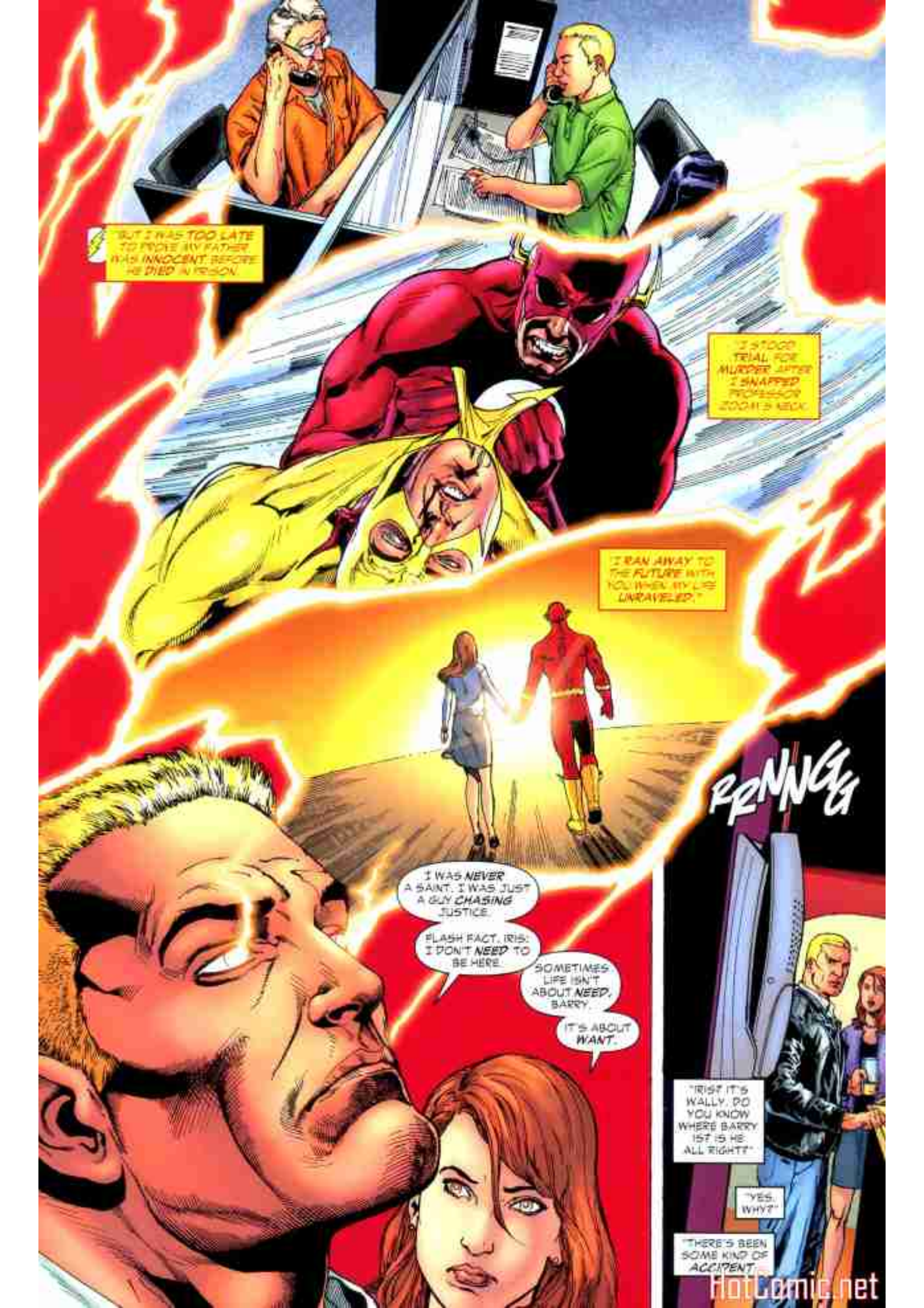
BUT I WOULD'VE
GIVEN ANYTHING
TO GET YOU BACK.
DON'T FORGET YOUR
RETURN IS A GOOD
THING, BARRY.

AND DON'T
FORGET HOW
HAPPY EVERYONE
IS THAT YOU'RE
HERE.

I KNOW...



...AND THEY ALL
REMEMBER ME
LIKE I WAS SOME
KIND OF SAINT.



BUT I WAS TOO LATE
TO PROVE MY FATHER
WAS INNOCENT BEFORE
HE DIED IN PRISON.

I STOOD
TRIAL FOR
MURDER AFTER
I SNAPPED
PROFESSOR
ZOOM'S NECK.

I RAN AWAY TO
THE FUTURE WITH
YOU WHEN MY LIFE
UNRAVELED.

I WAS NEVER
A SAINT. I WAS JUST
A GUY CHASING
JUSTICE.

FLASH FACT, IRIS:
I DON'T NEED TO
BE HERE.

SOMETIMES
LIFE ISN'T
ABOUT NEED,
BARRY.

IT'S ABOUT
WANT.

RRRRRRRR

"TRIST IT'S
WALLY. DO
YOU KNOW
WHERE BARRY
IS? IS HE
ALL RIGHT?"

"YES.
WHY?"

"THERE'S BEEN
SOME KIND OF
ACCIDENT."



IT STARTED
WITH JAY.



NEW YORK

THE BROWNSTONE
OF THE JUSTICE
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA.

I'M FINE,
JOAN. JUST
A LITTLE
WINDED.

"APPARENTLY, HE
EXPERIENCED SOME KIND
OF 'SPEED SEIZURE.'"

"HE COLLAPSED."

"LIBERTY BELLE SUFFERED SOMETHING
SIMILAR, BUT TO A MUCH LESSER EXTENT.
SHE'S NO LONGER AS CONNECTED TO THE
SPEED FORCE LIKE HER FATHER WAS, BUT SHE
STILL HAS SOME KIND OF RESIDUAL TIE."



"BART'S A DIFFERENT
STORY. HIS SEIZURE WAS
LONGER THAN JAY'S,
AND MORE PAINFUL."



SAN FRANCISCO

TEEN TITANS
TOWER.

I WANT TO TALK
TO WALLY.
THEY DON'T WANT
YOU RUNNING UNTIL
WE FINISH THESE
TESTS.

CAN'T YOU
DO IT ANY
FASTER?

NO,
BART.

AW,
MAN.



"THE SAME KIND OF
SPEED FORCE SURGE
STRUCK ME AND THE KIDS."



NEW YORK

TITANS TOWER.

A VANILLA
FOR IRVY AND
A CHOCOLATE
FOR JAI.

THANKS, BUT I DON'T FEEL
LIKE ICE CREAM.

BUT YOU
LOVE ICE
CREAM.

"WE'RE RUNNING
TESTS..."



--BUT THE SCIENCE
BEHIND THE SPEED
FORCE IS STILL AN
UNKNOWN.

ALL WE DO KNOW
IS THAT IT HAPPENED
TO ALL OF US AT
NEARLY THE SAME
MOMENT.

GARRYT

THE SAME
MOMENT. RIGHT
AFTER SAVITAR
DIED.

WHY
DIDN'T I FEEL
ANYTHING.
WALLY?

AND WHY,
OUT OF ALL
PLACES--

--IS THERE
SOME KIND OF
LIGHTNING STORM
IN THE TOWN I WAS
BORN IN?

COULD BE
THE WEATHER
WIZARD.

OR ABRA
KADABRA.

Welcome to
FALLVILLE



KRAKKKOOOMM





MY NAME IS CHRISTINA
ALEXANDROVA--
HIGH PRIESTESS TO THE SPEED
LORD SAVITARI!

YOU
MURDERED THE MAN
I WORSHIPPED!

YOU'LL
KILL US
ALL!

I'VE DEALT
WITH HER BEFORE.
BUT SHE'S FASTER
THAN NORMAL.

SUPERCHARGED
SOMEHOW.

EMPOWERED
BY THE
DEATHS OF
SAVITARI'S
FOLLOWERS!

I HAVE THE SPEED
OF HUNDREDS!

KRAKKK

WE'RE STILL
FASTER.

Aaagh!

IT HAPPENS
AS SOON AS
I TOUCH HER



JUST LAY
SHUT UP



WALLY CONVEYSES
IN PAIN AS IT HITS
HIM TOO



SOME KIND OF
FEEDBACK



AND I CAN'T
SLOW...



DOWN



WHAT
IS IT?

WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME?



YOU...

...BARRY...

WALLY FIGHTS THROUGH
THE PAIN, BUT E STILL
SEE TERROR IN HIS EYES

...YOU'RE
THE NEW

**BLACK
FLASH**



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**DEAD
RUN**

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THE FLASH: REBIRTH #3



Finally got the chance to meet DC's BIGGEST fans, but more on that later.

Would love to say that this has been a crazy week but it's only Wednesday. Just spent the last half hour watching Geoff Johns put the finishing touches on FLASH REBIRTH #2 (which you should have in your hands right now), and I have to say this is one ending that has even me nervous about what's going to happen next.

And speaking of Geoff, now that you've all read the stunning fourth issue of FINAL CRISIS: LEGION OF THREE WORLDS, which came out last week (and it did come out last week), you can start to imagine what Geoff and Francis Manapul have in store for ADVENTURE COMICS later this summer. Stay tuned for next week's DC Nation page for more on that.

I've also just hung up the phone with Brian Azzarello, and he's agreed to do a project so massive that's it got me wondering if we can pull it off. But hell, if anyone can do it, Brian's the man!

And today's the day we have James Robinson in the halls of DC, and he has so many projects it's getting hard to keep track. It's amazing how fast he can move from one editor's office to the next carrying Superman under one arm and the Justice League under the other (figuratively, not literally). Don't know when he'll find time for the two Blackest Night miniseries he just signed on to do. All I know is that they are going to be great.

Pete Tomasi was supposed to be here today, but he decided to stay home to put a polish on the latest GREEN LANTERN CORPS and OUTSIDERS. That's got me wondering when he is going to get started on his Blackest Night miniseries. The more I think about it the more I realize everything about Blackest Night, whether it's the lead book, supporting miniseries or crossovers, it's all shaping up to be the spectacular event of the summer.

Which all leads me back to our biggest fans. (Told you I'd get back to that!) Had some fun giving a tour of the offices to the NBA rookie sensation and New Jersey Nets starting center Brook Lopez and his brother Chris. Brook stands in at 7'0", and his brother Chris is 6'7". Making them possibly the biggest fans (both figuratively and literally) of DC I have ever met.

That should get you up to speed on the latest goings-on here at DC.

Who needs to tweet when you've got the DC Nation?

To be continued... DD

DC NATION

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